SB 257 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To:	Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Meeting Dates:	3/18, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates $30 million in general fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for Oregon State University (OSU) agricultural experiment stations, extension services, and forest research laboratory.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Young farmers and need for mentorship
- 4H programs
- Agricultural research and impact on Oregon's economy
- Staffing levels in OSU statewide programs
- Wildfire prevention
- Integrated pest management
- Natural resources management
- Behavioral health
- Impact of forestry labs, agricultural experimental stations
- Climate change

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station (OAES) is a statewide network that conducts research and demonstrations in the agricultural, biological, social and environmental sciences at the OSU main campus in Corvallis and branch stations throughout the state. The OSU Extension Service is a statewide network based in Oregon counties that develops and delivers non-credit, educational programs based on locally identified needs. The Forest Research Laboratory conducts research on management and utilization of Oregon forests. The research results are shared with educational programs, forestry and scientific publications, government, and the public. Senate Bill 257 provides $30 million to support these OSU statewide programs and services.

PRELIMINARY